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AESTRACT

An analysis of a student attitude questionnaire administered in the spring of 1970 to students in 39 secondary schools in the state of Utah reflects attitudes which students bring to foreign language classrooms. Results of the survey indicate that students share positive attitudes toward language study both before and after enrollment in a language program. Loss of interest in the subject is noted to be the primary cause of student dropouts. The contents of the paper include: (1) nature of the survey, (2) review of the literature, (3) the student foreign language attitude questionnaire, (4) results of the study, and (5) conclusions and recommendations. Appendixes contain the foreign language attitude questionnaires and other pertinent data. A selected bibliography is included. (RL)

*Student Attitudes; Student Needs

A STUDY OF STUDENT ATTITUDES TOWARDS FOREIGN LANGUAGES THEFEBLES SECONDARY USHBOLD OF UTAB

A Thesis

Presented to the

Department of Germanic and Stavic Languages Brigham Young University

In Partial Eulfillment

of the Requirements for the Dagnez

Master of Arts

by

Lynn T. Wood

May 1972

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T 003 746

A STUDY OF STUDENT ATTITUDES TOWARDS FOREIGN LANGUAGES -IN PUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS OF UTAH

Lynn T. Woka

Department of Germanic and Stavic Languages

M.A. Degree, May 1972

ABSTRACT

The following conclusions were reached from an analysis of the student attitude question aires administered in the spring of 1970 to students in thirty-nine secondary schools in the state of Utah. The attitudes of students are important and give an indication as to why they do not take foreign languages or if they begin foreign language study, why they discontinue. Students who have never taken a foreign language indicated a positive attitude toward foreign languages, but the attitudes of students who had been enrolled in foreign languages were even more positive. Students enroll in foreign language classes in order to learn to speak the language. They are after practical uses for the new language. The primary reason for dropping out of the foreign language classes is a toss of interest. There was no difference in attitudes shown according to sex. Students living in urban, rural, and isolated rural areas of the state indicated no difference in attitude toward foreign languages.

COMMITTEE APPROVAL:

James S. Taylor, Committee Chairman

Marvin H. Folsom, Committee Member

Marvin H. Folsom, Committee Member

Mans-Wilhelm Kelling, Committee Member

Mans-Wilhelm Kelling, Committee Member

Marvin R. Watkins, Department Chairman



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This thesis, by Lynn T. Wood, is accepted in its present form by the Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages of Brigham Young University as satisfying the thesis requirement for the aggree of Master of Arts.

James S. Taylor, Committee Chairman

Marvin H. Folsom, Committee Member

Hans-Milhelm Kelling, Committee Member

Date

Arthur R. Watkins, Department Chairman

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| Chapte | or . | | | | | | | | | Pag |
|--------|--------------------------------------|------|------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|-------------------------------------|------|
| 1. | INTRODUCTION | | | | | | | | ٠. | . • |
| | The Problem | | • | | | 1 | | | | |
| | Statemen: of Purpose | | ^\ | | | | | | | |
| | Delimitations of the Study . | | | • | 4 | | | | | · |
| *. | Definition of Terms Used | | | ٠ | | - | | | • | |
| | Source of Data | | | | | | • | ٠ | • | |
| | Type of Questionnaire | | | • | , | | | | | Ē |
| | Schedule of Collection | | • | | .• | | Ī | | | |
| ٠ | Evaluation of the Study | | | | | | • | | • | |
| | The need and value of the | sti | ndγ | • | | • | • | | • | £ |
| | The objectives of the stu | dγ | • | ٠ | | | • | | • | Ç |
| 11. | REVIEW OF LITERATURE | | • | • | • | • | * . | • | ÷ | 7 |
| 111. | THE STUDENT FOREIGN LANGUAGE ATTITUE | DE Ç |)UES | TIO | йНА | IRE | | | | 13 |
| | - Dovelopment | • | * | • | • | | • | | =·································· | 13 |
| • | Accuracy of the Instrument . | | • | | | | | | | 14 |
| • | Distribution and Administration | η, | | | | | | | | 15 |
| • . | Participation | • | # # | • | • | • | • | • | | Ιó |
| IV. | RESULTS OF THE STUDY | • | | | | | • | | | 19 |
| | Analysis of Form ! | •• | • | .• | • | • | | | | - 19 |
| | Analysis of Form II | | • | • | | | • | • | *1, | 24 |
| | Comparison of Form Land Form L | 1 | | | • | | • | | | 32 |
| | ÷. | | | | | | | | | |

| Chapter | | | |) | | | | | | | | | | Pagn |
|-----------|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------|---------|-----------|----------------|-----------|-------|---------|-----|-------|-----|------------|
| | Comparison b | y Sex | | • . | | | | | | | | , | • | |
| | A Comparison Districts | of Ura | ait, 1 | Rura: | an • | id • | 53) | a†e • | (;); | lur.: | : i | | | <u> </u> |
| | Dropouts . | | | | | | | ٠ | | • | | ٠. | | 3 8 |
| V. CC | MCLUSTONS AND I | RECOMMEN | VDAT I | IONS | | | • | | • | | | | | 4.2 |
| r e | Conclusions | ê şi | | •, | | | | | | | | | | 42 |
| | Recommendatio | ons . | | | •. | • | | • | | | | | | 4 3 |
| pendix A | . Foreign Lar (Form I) | nguage / | \† † | ude (| Çue: | stio • | onņā • | alre | | • | | | مور | 47 |
| pendix B | . Foreign Lar (Form II) | guage A | \ + + + | ude (| Que: | stic | • 5576 | ire | | | • | (. | | 52 |
| pendix C | . Responses t | o Form | 1 | • , | • | | | | | | | (. | | 60 |
| oendix D | . Responses t | o Form | 11. | | | | | • | | | | • | | 69 |
| nendix E | . Cover Lette | r to Di | stri | ct Si | aper | int- | end | lent | Ş | | | | • | 85 |
| pendix F | Rank order Foreign L | list of anguage | . Rea Stu | sons dy ^ | for | · Di | sco. | nti | ny i | ng • | | | | 87 |
| pendix G. | , , , | on of S | choo | Dis | tri | c†s | <u>ļi</u> n | <u>th</u> | () | | | * | | |
| | Study . | * * | • • | , | • | • | c _p | • | • | • | ٠ | • | • | 91 |
| lected Bi | ibliography . | | | | | _ | | | | | | | | 32 |



LIST OF TABLES

| Table | | Page |
|-------|---|---------------|
| 1. | Districts, Schools and Number of Students that Participated in Study. | 17 |
| 41. | The Extent to Which Various People Consider Foreign Language Study Important According to Student Opinion | () ہے |
| 111. | Reasons for not Taking a Foreign Language and the Parcentage of Students Who Responded to These Reasons | 73.43 8.46 |
| ۱۷. | Skills that a Foreign Language Course Could Emphasize and the Reactions of Students Towards Them | 23 |
| ٧. | Foreign Languages Students Would Choose if They Decided to Study a Second Language | 24 |
| VI. | Foreign Languages in Which Students Answering Form II Were Enrolled | 25 |
| VII. | Possible Influences in Determining Which Foreign Language to Study and the Percentage of Student Responses | 26 |
| VİII. | Skills that a Foreign Language Course Could Emphasize and the Reactions of Students Towards Them | 27 |
| IX. | Questions Dealing with Teachers and the Responses Given by the Students | 29 |
| ×. | Comparison of Questions from Form I and Form II | 33 |
| xI. | A Comparison of Student Opinions as to the Extent Various People Consider Foreign Languages Important | 34 |
| XII. | Responses Against Foreign Language Requirements | 35 |
| ×Щ. | Desirability of Skills to be Learned | 36 |
| XIV. | Boys and Girls Who Answered Form I and Form H | 37 |
| XV. | Language Preference for Boys and Girls | 37 |
| .IVX | Utah Foreign Language Enrollments 1967-1970 | 38 |



| Table | | | Page |
|---------|---|---|----------|
| XVII. | Students Continuing and Discentinuing Their Foreign Language Study During the Next School Year | | 79 79 |
| XVIII . | Problems of Articulation | 1 | 1.1 |

ز

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The Problem

Following World War II, there was a widespread feeling in America that the United States led the world. People of other countries could speak English if they wanted to do business with the United States. Foreign language study was not important or necessary. The launching of the Russian Sputnik brought us back to the realization that Americans do need to learn and use foreign languages. The United States government funded programs in foreign language education and the study of languages blossomed.

As America's own space program surged ahead and won the race to the moon, foreign languages once again lost priority in government spending. For the last few years, enrollments in foreign languages in the state of Utah and in the nation have declined. Many junior high schools and some senior high schools have dropped foreign language programs from their curriculum. Some schools offer only one foreign language, others offer none. Students who begin foreign language study discontinue that study after one or more years, usually in accord with existing entrance requirements of the various universities. This raises several questions.

Why do students study foreign languages?

Frank M. Grittner, "Maintaining Foreign Language Skills for the Advanced-Course Dropout," <u>Foreign Language Annals</u>, II (December 1968), 205.



- A. What are their expectations?
- 8. What are their metives?
- 2. What are the students' attitudes toward the foreign language teacher in such things as:
 - A. The kinds of class activities used by the teacher.
 - B. The teaching methods employed by the toucher.
 - C. The extracurricular activities engaged in by the teacher.
- 3. What are the reasons for discontinuing foreign language study?
- 4. What are the reasons for never studying a foreign language?
- 5. What are the students' attitudes toward foreign languages in relation to other subjects in the school curriculum?
- o. What do students like and dislike about foreign language study?
- 7.. What attitudinal differences are there among junior and senior high school students on the above subjects?
- 8. What attitudinal differences are there between males and females on the above subjects?

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this study was: (I) to determine by questic naire the attitude of junior and senior high school students in Utah toward foreign language study; (2) to seek answers to the above questions; and (3) to make recommendations for the building of foreign language programs in the state.



Delimitations of the Study

This study was limited to junior and senior high school students in the state of Utah for the school year 1970-71 who answered the attitude questionnaire used for this study. The study included only those school districts in Utah where at least one foreign language was taught and where the school district allowed the study to be conducted.²

<u>Definition</u> of Terms Used

The following terms which were used in this study are defined below:

Attitude. The student's disposition toward foreign languages as either favorable or unfavorable.

Attrition. The decline in enrollment from one level of foreign language instruction to the next.

<u>Dropout.</u> A student who for any reason discontinued foreign language study once he had begun that study.

Junior, High School. Junior high school was comprised of grades seven and eight. It consisted of grade nine also if this grade was included within the same building.

Level of Instruction. Level of instruction was the progression made in foreign language study during one year of high school

A list of the school districts in Utah that participated in the study and those not participating may be found in Appendix G.



instruction, e.g., first year German or third year French.

Senior High School. Senior high school was comprised of grades ten, eleven and twelve. It consisted of grade nine also if this grade was included within the same building.

Source of Data

A questionnaire was designed by the writer with supervisory hold from the language departments at the Brigham Young University and from the specialist in foreign language instruction. Utah State Board of Education. The questionnaire was administered to twenty sunior high schools and nineteen junior high schools in the state of Utah. This was one-third of all secondary schools that qualified for the study. A ten percent sample of each school population was given the questionnaire. The overall sample consisted of students from economic and ethnic backgrounds of all types. It included all geographical sections of the state of Utah including urban, rural and isorated rural areas.

Type of Questionnaire

The questionnaire was designed to elicit attitudes of students toward foreign languages. The questionnaire contained two sections. The tirst, Form I, was intended for those who have never had a foreign language course. The second, Form II, was intended for students who were currently enrolled in a foreign language course, or had been enrolled at one time. Each questionnaire had a code number

for the school district, the school, the sex of the individual, the year in school and the number of years of foreign language study.

A copy of the questionnaire is included in the appendix.

Schedule of Collection

The questionnaires were delivered, along with a cover letter from the Utah State Board of Education between March 15, 1971, and May 28, 1971. Each school had no longer than two weeks to complete the questionnaires. All questionnaires were returned.

Evaluation of the Study

The study was evaluated in terms of statements on (a) the need and value of the study, and (b) the objectives of the investigation.

The need and value of the study. The decline in enrollment of foreign language students in Utah has been viewed from many angles, but never from the standpoint of the student. No attempt has been made to find out how students feel about various aspects of the foreign language curriculum. This type of information is necessary in order to realistically find ways of stimulating interest in foreign language study and to maintain that interest during a long sequence of language study. A study of this type would also help to identify and to correct erroneous ideas, unrealistic expectations, or negative attitudes that the students may hold. In these terms the study would make a contribution toward meeting a basic need of the students as well as the teachers.

The objectives of the study. It was an objective of this investigation (a) to determine the attitude of secondary students in Utah toward foreign language study and various aspects of the foreign language curriculum and (b) to make recommendations for the building and maintaining of foreign language programs in that state that would be pedagogically feasible and desirable.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Foreign language educators have been concerned about the high attrition in advanced foreign language classes. Educators have given flowery speeches and indulged in much speculation seeking reasons for this attrition. Few studies have dealt directly with the foreign language student. Whether his opinions are valid has been a question in the minds of many educators. Many teachers, supervisors, and administrators are fearful of the outcome of a student opinion questionnaire. They feel that their abilities, dignity and even their jobs would be placed in jeopardy if students were allowed to speak freely about their foreign language experience. Bamberger summed up the problem very well. Student opinions are important. "Even the obviously most erroneous conceptions of a student cannot be disregarded inasmuch as they help to determine his attitude toward the subject."

The following is an analysis of research : lated to student attitudes and foreign language study.

Papalia in a survey of four suburban public schools, attempted to discover the answer to four basic questions: (I) Why high school



³Fred H. Bamberger, "What About the Student's Point of View," Modern Language Journal, XXXIX (1955), 240-42.

Anthony Papalia, "A Study of Attrition in Foreign Language Enrollments in Four Suburban Public Schools," Foreign Language Annals, IV (1970), 62-7.

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at which they tend to drop their foreign language study; (3) To what extent do students' opinions coincide with other evidence; and (4). To what extent do teacher opinions coincide with other evidence? Ho concluded that students drop the fereign language because they feel it is too hard, they preferred another surject, they were not interested in foreign languages, the counselor advised them to drop or they didn't like the teacher. He discovered that most dropouts occur following the second level of study.

Bartley's study was designed to identify differences in attitude between continuing and discontinuing foreign language tudents, the possible change of attitude within each of the groups, the probability which students have for continuing or dropping the foreign language, and to identify the above according to sex. All eighth grade students from two junior highs in Palo Alto Unified School District were used for the study. These were divided into continuing and discontinuing foreign language groups. These two groups were then divided into groups according to sex. Bartley found that significant differences in attitude occurred between hoys and girls and a significant negative change does exist between September and March for both sexes in the discontinuing group. She concluded that the findings of this study clearly point to the important role



⁵Diana E. Bartley, "The Importance of the Attitude Factor in Language Dropout: A Preliminary Investigation of Group and Sex Differences," <u>Foreign Language Annals</u>, III (1970), 383-93.

which attitude plays in foreign language dropour.

Reinert's study began with the assumption that "secondary students enroll in foreign languages because of a desire to learn the foreign language and culture." A district wide survey was concucted in Edmonds, Washington concerning the attitudes of foreign language students. A nineteen-item questionnaire was distributed to each foreign language student in the district. The results of the questionnaire indicated that students originally enrolled in foreign language classes because of a language requirement and thus only studied the foreign language for two years. The study concluded that foreign language teachers should be more perceptive to the attitudes of their students. They should gain community support and emphasize the nature of language itself.

Committee I, of the Northeast Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, was assigned the task of gaining information and opinions directly from the students. They developed a polling instrument that foreign language teachers could use in their own classroom. Its purpose was (I) to find out how students really felt about the foreign language curriculum, (2) to change aspects of the instructional process, and (3) to help correct erroneous ideas, expectations or negative attitudes that students may hold. The questionnaire contained two sections. The first was intended for students who were currently enrolled in a foreign language



Sale," Modern Language Journal, LIV (1970), 107-12.

who had never had a foreign language course. Parts of each solition were parallel so that comparisons between groups could be made. This report concluded that "the foreign language teaching profession is moving into a new era..." and student attitudes are incentant in order to meet the challenges of this new era...

Fulton administered an opinionnaire to students, counselors, and teachers in sixteen of the Boston Fublic High Schools. The purpose of this study was to discover why boys and girls drop foreign languages at the end of their second year of high school. This study revealed little new or unknown causes for dropout. It did indicate that the fault did not belong to the teachers or to the way they teach. Outside influences and pressures seemed to exert a great deal of influence. Teachers and counselors did not blame each other for the dropouts, but agreed on reasons for the dropouts as follows.

- 1. preferred another elective
- 2. Thought it would be too hard to continue
- 3. completed the language requirement
- preferred a vocational subject
- wanted to start another language
- 6. Tack of encouragement from administrative or guidance personnel
- 7. present level was uninteresting

⁷Leon A. Jakobovits, "A Relevant Curriculum: An Instrument for Polling Student Opinion," <u>Northeast Conference Report</u>, (1970), 8-30.



- ö. no en sunagement from language teacher.
- Students! reasons for discontinuing foreign language study with very close to those listed above. The study refed that two of the favores ways to evercome the dropout problem were publicity and programmes touting.

Menting's study was conducted in receive and the opinions the receive and the opinions the receive and the opinions of foreign languages. Two hundred is analysis were chosen at random in Floomington, Indiana. Minety-one positions of the provided were in layer of reaching foreign languages in the public schools. Those who had studied or speken a foreign language were more in favor of foreign languages than those who had not. In the provided to which canguages should be taught, their choices work France, spanish, Corman, Russian and Latin in that order. When asked at what level languages should be stanted; forty-nine coroent said elementary school, twenty-seven percent said in junior high, twenty-one percent said in high school and only three percent said to begin in college. This study concludes that the public in Bloomington places the teaching of foreign languages high on the priority in the school curriculum.

From the above stables it can be concluded that student attitudes are an important consideration when assessing the dropout

BRende J. Fulton, "The Problem of the Drop-out in High School Language Classes," <u>Modern Language Journal</u>, XLII (1958), 115-19.

Ruben Mehling, "Public Opinion and Teaching of Foreign Languages," Modern Language Journal, XLIII (1959), 338-31.

foreign language before help can be given. The studies cited rive evidence that through eareful polling, not only reasons for students dropping out of foreign languages can be spotted, but also the point in their study that is the most 2 milled in terms of attrition.

Student attitudes should also be scrutinized when beginning a new program. If, for example, a group of students wants to learn to speak the language as their primary goal and the teacher emphasizes grammar or reading, the students will soon drop out because their own expectations have not been met. The time is true for existing foreign language programs that need to be built up and revised.

A study of student attitudes has no or been conducted in the state of Utah and yet many programs throughout the state are suffering from students dropping out of or never dropping into foreign language classes. The above mentioned studies give an indication that such information is desirable, but they cannot be directly applied to the problems of attrition in Utah because of differing circumstances. Therefore, a study of student attitudes would be nelpful in analyzing the decline in foreign language enrollments and in building new programs or improving existing ones. This study was designed to fill these needs.

CHAPTER III

THE STUDENT FOREIGN LANGUAGE ATTITUDE QUESTIONNAIRE

The use of affitude or epinion curveys is not a new concept.

Public opinion polls on a variety of subjects have been used for many years. In spite of this, very little just been done to find out how a students feel about foreign language study.

classroom. Today's student is no longer content to come to school and passively accept what educators have to give. He wants to be more involved. The modern student has a greater semistication than ever before and ne wants a voice in the kinds of courses to be laught, the content of these courses, and in some cases, in the method of instruction to be used by the teacher. Because of his independence, it is all the more important to be aware of the student's desires and prejudices in relation to foreign languages. In order to facilitate this, the Student Foreign Language Attitude Questionnaire was developed.

Development

The Student Foreign Language Attitude Questionnaire, which was given in the spring of 1971, was developed by the author with supervisory help from the Department of Gormanic and Stavic Languages and the Department of Spanish and Portuguese Languages at Brigham Young University, and the foreign Language specialist of the Utah State Board of Education. The questionnaire is comprised of two forms. Form I was designed to be administered to students with no previous foreign

taken a foreign language or who were presently enrolled in a foreign language class. Items on Form I are for the most part parallel to the items in the first half of Form II. This allows for comparison of the two groups. The last part of Form II was designed only for those who had already discontinued their foreign language study or who were planning to do so at the end of the current school year.

Both forms of the questionnaire have questions denling with the acquisitions of skills (sheaking, listening, reading, writing), ideas on cultural comparisons, importance of foreign language study, teacher rupport, extracurricular activities, travel, and personal influences regarding foreign language study. The Students recorded their answers on IBM answer sheets in order to allow for computer assistance in labulating the results.

Accuracy of the Instrument

The Student Foreign Language Artitude Questionnaire was indministered to two numbered students at South High School, Salt Lake City School Distriction a trial basis. Time was allowed after completion of the questionnaire for the students to comment about the instrument. Hard-to-understand questions were then revised and errors were corrected. Fullowing the pilot administration and revision, the instrument was submitted to the Brigham Young University Testing Center to be checked for computer compatability. A second revision was completed before the questionnaires were administered to the students. The pilot group of questionnaires was not included in this



<u>Distribution</u> and <u>Administration</u>

A letter 10 was sent to all district superintendents of schools in Utah from the State Foreign Language Specialist describing the project and requesting permission to conduct the study in their school districts. The final/selection of schools to participate in the study was made from those districts where foreign languages were already part of the curriculum and where permission was granted to conduct the study. Schools were chosen from all geographical sections of the state and included samples from urban, rural, and isolated rural schools. All economical levels were represented in the sample as well as representatives from the various minority groups throughout the state. Table 1 indicates the school districts and the schools that participated in the study and the number of students from each school who answered the questionnaire.

Where permission was granted, copies of the above mentioned letter were sent to principals of secondary schools to gain their support for the study in their respective schools. Appointments were made with the principals and the questionnaires were delivered to the schools and administered to the students by either the writer or by Dr. Elliot C. Howe, Specialist of Foreign Language Education of the Utah State Board of Education.

¹⁰A copy of this letter may be found in Appendix E.

the student responses were recorded on ISM enswer sheets and the computer at the Brigham Young University Computer Center was used to tabulate the results of the questionnaire.

Participation

The questionnaire was answered by 3,220 secondary students in grades seven through twelve for the 1970-71 school year. Of those, 1,195 answered Form I (no previous foreign language study) and 2,025 students responded to Form II (have been or are presently enrolled in a foreign language). There were 1,59, boys and 1,629 girls involved in the study.

TABLE | Districts, Schools and Number of Students that Participated in Study

| School District | Jr. High | Stuaents | Sr. High | Students |
|-----------------|--|----------------------|---|--------------------|
| Alpine | Pleasant Grove Jr. | 54/ | Orem High | 76 |
| Box Elder | Bear River Jr. Box Elder Jr. | 05 96 | Pox Elder Hagh | 33 4 |
| Davis | Millcreek Jr. North Layton Jr. Sunset Jr. | 72 70 55 | Clearfield High Viewmont High | 154 215 |
| Emery | | | Green River High | .72 |
| Granite | Wasatch Jr. | 85 | Cottonwood High Granite High Skyline High | 70 107 171 |
| Logan | Logan Jr. | 52 | Logan High | 69 |
| Millard | | ū | Millard High | 59 |
| Morgan | | | Morgan High | 128 |
| Provo | Dixon Jr. Farrer Jr. | 100 91 | Provo High | 90 |
| Salt Lake City | Bryant Jr. ~ Hillside Jr. Lincoln Jr. Southeast Jr. | 64 75 63 52 | East High South High West High | 136 153` 148 |
| Tooele | Tooele Jr. | ·52* | Grantsville High | 66 |
| Uintah | 1 | | Uintah High | 58 |

TABLE I (continued) .

| School District | Jr. | High | Students | Sr. High | Students |
|-----------------|------------------------|------|----------|-----------------|----------|
| Washington | Woodward | Jr. | 69 | | |
| Wayne | 4 | | | Wayne High | 52 |
| Weber . | South Jr. T. H. Bel | | 44 78 | Bonneville High | 138 |

CHARTER IV

RESULTS OF THE STUDY

The results of this investigation on "A Study of Student Attitudes Towards Foreign Languages in Public Secondary Schools of Utah" were organized in terms of (a) the responses of the students to the questionnaire (Form I and Form II) and (L) comparisons of the various elements of the responses made by the students.

Analysis of Form 1

Form 1 was intended for students who have never been chroited in a foreign language course in school. Of those students poiled, 34% answered this form of the questionnaire. This is an indication that where foreign language courses are offered, only one-third of the students have not been exposed to foreign language study at some time in their school experience. Of those students who responded to form 1, 11.6% of them had had some type of foreign language exposure other than in the school situation. The circumstances outside of the school where language learning takes place most frequently is the home, however, only 4.3% indicated that they had already spoken a foreign language.

The chief reason given for not taking a foreign language was that their chosen occupation did not require foreign language skills.

Another reason frequently given for not studying a foreign language was

Il For a complete list of responses given to each individual question in Form I, see Appendix C.



that their schedule was overcrowded with other required in locally courses preferred over the foreign language course. Closely related to this response was that there was no need for credit or that foreign language was not a requirement for college entrance.

People are influenced by those around them. Children have a fendency to be like their parents and friends. Good teachers who are well liked by the students have a felling effect on the students! opinions and attitudes. Students are very often influenced by what they think others' opinions might be. The students may be entirely wrong in their judgments, but it still influences their behavior. It is interesting to note that while 45% of the students who had not taken a foreign language felt that languages were important in their opinion, 65% of their friends felt that foreign language study was unimportant. Apparently they respected their friends' points of view above their own. Table II indicates in the judgment of the students without previous language study, the extent to which various people consider foreign language study important.

TABLE II

The Extent to Which Various People Consider Foreign Language Study Important According to Student Opinion

| People Being Considered | Extremely Important | Important | Not so Important | Unimportant | No Opinion |
|----------------------------|------------------------|-----------|---------------------|-------------|---------------|
| Parents | 10.2% | 27.1% | 36.0% | 12.6% | 10.0% |

 $^{^{12}\}text{Percentages}$ that do not equal 100% on the tables are a result of students who did not respond to the item in the questionnaire. This pertains to all tables in this report.

TABLE II (continues)

| Prople Reing Cosidered | Extremely Important | Important | Not so Important | Design of mil | Confederation to the confedera |
|---------------------------|--|--|---------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Primals 1 | 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1 | The state of the s | G_{n+1}^{a} | . 1,17 | 11.00 |
| Yourself | 15.9% | 20. J | . 30,55 | 14,5% | 6.55 |
| Sectety | 6.5% | 20.17 | 56.9% | 14.17 | 11.5 |
| Foreign | , | | ÷ , | · | |
| Langungo Teachers | 59.7% | 20.3% | 5.75 | 4.1% | ξ ₁ |
| Other Teachers | 15.0% | 32.5% | 22.05 | 7.3% | 19.87 |
| Counselors | 15.45 | 38.2% | 18.7%, | 7.36 | 12. |
| Administrators | 16.7% | 35.1% | 17.5% | $R_{\bullet}Q_{\kappa}^{f}$ | 19.7% |
| Superintendent | 13.1% | 32.36 | 10 00 | U. Of | 77 2 d |
| School Board | 12.1% | 34.4% | 21 | $g_* _{ec{ ho}_{-\gamma}}$ | 18.7% |

A strong indication was given that grade point average and teacher dislike had very little bearing on the student's decision not to take a foreign language. Course content and methodology were not if great concern to this group of students. Table III shows reasons for not taking a foreign language and the percentage or students who responded to these reasons.

Rousens For No. Taking A Foreign Language And The Percentage of Stadent Who Responded To These Reasons

| Reasons For Nat Errolling | T1 ()) | Fulse |
|--|----------------|--|
| I did not like the foreign language teachers. | 15.17 | 5 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 |
| My grades in my English class were too low to allow me to enroll for a foreign language. | 20. <i>1</i> % | 77 . 0%. |
| I didn't have an high enough grade point average to allow me to enroll for a foreign language. | 17.1% | \$5.40° |
| I did not like the way in which foreign languages were taught in my school. | 14.0% | 85.0% |
| The foreign language classes do not place enough emphases on the people, their culture and their civilization. | 20.2% | 70,9% |

There was strong teeling as to the types of skills they would want to acquire should they ever enroll in a foreign language class. Seventy-five percent of the students felt that they would want to be able to engage in conversation with native speakers. Other skills which showed a high interest among the students were to enjoy films in a foreign language, to read newspapers and magazines and to write letters for various purposes in another language. The least interest was shown in being able to read the classical literature in a foreign language. This is an indication that students anticipating foreign



can be applicably as a two and confinently of the following of the confinence of the confinence of the compact to the confinence of the co

OF IV

Skilts That A Foreign Employ, June Coold Emphicing And The Addition of Students Townson Them.

| GRIIIs To be Emphasizad | Divinability of Learning the | |
|---|------------------------------|---------|
| | Interested . Ref Inter | ្នៅជំនួ |
| Coing able to organis on swenyday, a eventualion with native secakers of that language. | 71.00 | : |
| Being able to listen to news broadcasts in that tanguage. | 49.4# (44.5) | |
| Being aute to unjoy films in the criginal larguage. | 28.1% 24.2% | |
| Being able to road the classical Literature in that language. | 41.13 | |
| Seing able to read the current literature in that language, e.g., newspapers, magazines, lest sellers. | 50.3# (44) | |
| Being able to write letters in that language for various purposés, e.g., business, social. | 58.85 | |
| Geing able to write stories, articles, etc., in that language. | 31.6% 35.5% | |
| · | . * | |

Although they has not taken a foreign language director. All of the students answering Form I were not in favor of eliminating the teaching of foreign languages in American achools. They were represent however, to any type of foreign language requirement to be imposed upon them.

Many of the students disclosed their intentions to study a second language at some later date in either high school or college. Their preference of which language they would choose is shown in Table V.

TABLE V
Foreign Languages Students Would Choose If They Decided To Study A
Second Language T.

| Language | Frunch | German | Spanish | Latin | Jethor |
|-------------|--------|--------|---------|-------|--------|
| Percent | • | i | | | · |
| Of Students | 21.0% | 24.59 | 14.95 | 6.2% | 13.6% |
| | • | | • • | | |

Analysis of Form II

Form II 13 of the questionnaire was designed for students who had previously been or were at that time enrolled in a foreign language course. Of those stude is who participated in the study, 66% of them answered Form II. Of that number 17% of them had studied or were simultaneously studying a third language. Eighty-five percent of the

 $^{^{13}}$ For a complete list of responses given to each individual question in Form II, see Appendix D.

students who responded: I Form II said they know somethe personally wo would speak a language other than English.

Those students who had not studied a foreign language expressed 'preferences for which languages they would choose it they should at some later date decide to enroll in a foreign language course. Table VI indicates in which foreign language courses the students who answered Form II were enrolled.

TABLE VI
Foreign Languages In Which Students Answering Form II Were Enrolled

| 12 to | | | | | |
|-------------|--------|--------|---------|-------|-------|
| Language | French | German | Spanish | Latin | Other |
| Percent | | | | | |
| of students | 26.1% | 22.9% | 48.0% | 0.4% | 0.6% |
| | | • | | | |

The percent of those who preferred French was slightly lower (6.1%) than those enrolled and those who preferred German were slightly higher (1.6%) than those enrolled at present. In Spanish, however, those enrolled almost doubled those who indicated a preference for studying Spanish. The number of students participating in this study who were studying Latin was minimal, but the percentage of those who preferred Latin was 5.8% higher. It can be noted that only 0.6% of those participating in the investigation were studying another language other than those mentioned above. Many of those who had studied no language would have preferred to study a language other than French,

German, spanish or Latin. Thirteen percent of them indicated that a language other than those mentioned was desirable.

language they were studying, but a strong indication was given that teachers, counselors, college entrance requirements and vocational requirements did not play an important part in their selection. Tuble VII indicates possible influences in determining which foreign language to study and the percentage of student responses. When asked their reasons for choosing a particular language for study, 77.7% indicated that a desire to visit the country where the language is spoken was important in making their decisions. A second consideration was to gain an understanding of the people who speak the language (71.2%). The third most frequent reason was a desire to enrich their backgrounds and to broaden their cultural horizons (70.9%). Of least importance to the students in choosing a language were how the language sounds to the American ear (44.8%) and any ancestoral ties the students might have had (46.2%).

TABLE VII

Possible Influences In Determining Which Foreign Language To Study And
The Percentage of Student Responses

| Influences | | | | Yes | No | |
|------------|---|-------------|-----|-------|-------|-------------|
| Parents | | | | 45.8% | 51.4% | |
| Friends | | - | | 48.6% | 49.2% | |
| [eachers | | | * 1 | 13.8% | 82.2% | ř |
| Counselor | 2 - 2 - 2 - 2 - 2 - 2 - 2 - 2 - 2 - 2 - | ā | | 5.4% | 90.5% | |

TAPLE VII (continued)

| Influences | Yes | 167 |
|--------------------------------|-------|--|
| Callego and range Bagainsteins | | I g |
| Variational includes ments | 45.15 | en e |

According to \$7.57 of the students, the still anjumbed of the greatest inferest in foreign language study is being able to engage in everyday conversation with native species. Other areas where high inferest was shown were in being able to enjoy films in the foreign language, to be able to read newspapers and magazines in the language, and to be able to write lotters for various purposes. Of least interest to indeed already involved in foreign language study was the ability to write stories and articles in the language. See Table VIII for responses of students regarding desirable language skills to be learned.

TABLE VIII

Skills That A Foreign Language Course Could Emphasize And The Reactions Of Students Towards Them

| Skills to the emphasized | | . D | esirabili | Fy of | learning The skill | | |
|--------------------------|---|-----|-----------|-------|--------------------|----------|----|
| \$ 5. | • | | nterested | r | Not | intercst | ed |
| | to engage in an ever on with hative speake age. | | S7.5% | | | 14.1% | |
| riidi ranga | <i>⁴</i> . ⁻ | - | | | | | |

TABLE VIII (continued)

| Skills to be emphasized | Desirability of | Learning the Skill |
|---|-----------------|--------------------|
| | Interested | Not Interested |
| Being able to enjoy films in the original language. | 72.0% | 25.8% |
| Being able to read the classical literature in the language. | 62.5% | 36.0% |
| Being able to read the current literature in the language, e.g., newspapers, magazines, best sellers. | 73.5% | 25.1% |
| Being able to write letters in the language for various purposes, e.g., business, social. | 70.5% | 28.1% |
| Being able to write stories, articles etc., in the language. | 48.4% | 50.0% |

The majority of students seemed satisfied with the type of skills they were learning, the textbooks they were using and the classroom activities and homework they were assigned. Dissatisfaction was shown in the number of outside opportunities to use the language and in the foreign language club activities. Many of the schools involved in the study offered no outside opportunities for language use and foreign language clubs were ineffectual or not in existence.

In discussions with foreign language teachers and school administrators prior to administering the questionnaire, one of their greatest concerns was the number of items dealing with the foreign language teacher. It was felt that the students would use the study



to vent their feelings unjustly toward their teachers. The study proved this to be a false assumption. The strongest indication shown by any part of this investigation was the esteem of the students for their foreign language teachers. All questions which dealt with the teacher in any way received very favorable support. Table IX shows questions dealing with teachers and the responses given by the students.

TABLE IX

Questions Dealing With Teachers And The Responses Given By The Students

| Questions | Quite Satisfied | Satisfied | Dissatisfied |
|---|-----------------|-----------|---------------|
| Teacher's personality | 48.5% | 28.3% | 22.2% |
| Teacher's ability to speak the language | 72.2% | 18.8% | 7.1% |
| Teacher's ability to help you learn | 45.6% | .32.1% | 20.3% |
| Teacher's availability for consultation outside the regular classroom | 34.8% | 39.2% | î4.6 % |

Even though 38% of those who took the questionnaire had already dropped their foreign language study and 51% of those who were still enrolled intended to drop their study the following par, only 12.1% of them indicated that the time spent studying a foreign language had not been beneficial. Eighty-two percent of the students indicated they were in favor of beginning foreign language study in elementary school and 84% were against the elimination of the teaching of foreign languages in American schools. They were also against any type of foreign languages



requirements.

The second half of Form II was designed for those students who had already discontinued their foreign language study or intended to do so the following school year. It was developed to elicit reasons for students dropping their foreign language study after they had taken one or more years.

The main reason given for dropping their foreign language course was that they lost interest. Of those) who had discontinued language study, 69% gave this as a reason for doing so. Closely associated to the loss of interest was a preference for another subject. This was the second highest reason given for dropping the foreign language. The third reason was that the language study was no longer relevant. Listed below are the ten reasons for dropping foreign languages given most frequently in this study. They are listed in order of frequency with the most frequent reason first and the percentage of students who indicated that this was a chief reason for dropping their language study. 14

- I. I lost interest in studying the language. (69.0%)
- I preferred to study another subject instead of a language. (62.5%)
- 3. The language as it was taught was not relevant and worthwhile. (61.6%)
- 4. I didn't have enough time to study the language as much as I should. (60.8%)
- 5. We weren't learning to understand the spoken language. (56.2%)

¹⁴A complete rank order listing of reasons for discontinuing foreign language study is given in Appendix F.



- 6. We tried to cover too much too fast. (56.1%)
- 7. I wasn't able to become fluent, which was my reason for studying the language. (55.4%)
- 8. I just didn't feel any more language was worthwhile. (54.9%)
- 9. I was lazy and didn't study enough. (54.8%)
- 10. All we did was memorize dialogs. (54.3%)

The reasons that had no bearing on the students' decisions to drop the foreign language were more evident than why they do drop out of foreign language study. It seemed evident that a student's decision to drop his foreign language study was not based on the advice of his foreign language teacher, other teachers, counselors or parents.

Articulation 15 was not a problem for the students. The move from junior high to senior high school or from one school to another did not cause the students to become discouraged and drop their foreign language class. A difference in the teacher's methodology was not a reason for dropping out. Listed below are ten reasons that were least significant in the student's decision to drop foreign language study. They are listed with the least significant first with the percentage of students who said that this was not a reason for dropping their foreign language class.

- Another teacher advised me to drop. (86.8%)
- 2. I changed schools and the next course that I needed of the language was not available in the new school. (84.4%)



¹⁵Articulation is used here to mean a coordinated foreign language program within a school district including the same textbooks, materials and course of study within a given language and in all of the schools in that district.

- 3. A guidance counselor advised me to drop. (83.3%)
- 4. All we did was watch television. (83.2%)
- 5. My language teacher advised me to drop. (82.5%)
- The next year of the language wasn't offered in my school. (79.8%)
- 7. The language was too easy and didn't challenge me. (78.8%)
- 8. I moved to high school from junior high school and the high school teacher taught with different texts, methods, etc. (78.1%)
- 9. I wanted to switch to another language which I thought I would like better. (77.6%)
- 10. I wasn't permitted to study the language I wanted to study. (77.4%)

Comparison of Form | and Form | |

One of the contentions of foreign language educators has been that the study of foreign languages has hidden values that the learner gains as a bonus above the normal acquisition of skills. Although this study did not prove this point or even attempt to do so, it did show a marked difference in attitudes between the student who had studied a foreign language and the one who had not.

Table X indicates three questions that appear on both forms of the questionnaire and the percentage of students from both forms who answered the questions "yes." It can be noted that both groups were favorable toward these three questions, but those who had studied a foreign language were even more positive than those who had not.



TABLE X

Comparison Of Questions From Form | And Form | |

| Questions " | Percentage of Students Answering Positively | | |
|--|--|-----|-------|
| | Form I | | Form |
| If you had to stay in another country for an extended period of time, would you make a great effort to learn the language spoken there even though you could get along in English? | 72.2% | • | 82.1% |
| How important do you think it is for Americans to learn a foreign language? | 51.9% | iĢ. | 81.7% |
| Do you wish you could speak a foreign language like a native speaker? | 61.8% | | 83.7% |

Both forms of the questionnaire asked students to respond, in their own judgment, to what extent certain people consider foreign languages important. Again a very marked difference in opinions between the two groups was shown. The foreign language students displayed the more positive approach. Table XI lists the positive responses of both groups and the people they were asked to consider.



TABLE XI

A Comparison Of Student Opinions As To The Extent Various People Consider Foreign Languages Important

| Reople being considered | Percent they consider foreign languages important according to student opinion | | | |
|---------------------------|--|---|-------|------|
| | Form I | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | Form | |
| Parents | 37.3% | | 70.2% | |
| Friends | 20.5% | | 30.4% | * |
| Yourself | 45.5% | : | 82.0% | **** |
| Society . | 31.6% | 2 · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | 52.3% | |
| Foreign language teachers | 80.0% | | 90.8% | |
| Other teachers | 48.1% | • | 62.2% | |
| Counselors | 53.6% | 4 · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | 67.0% | |
| Administrators | 51.8% | | 67.1% | |
| Superintendent | 45.3% | | 62.4% | • |
| School Board ° | 46.5% | `./t | 64.5% | |

It can be noted that both groups felt that their friends had little interest in foreign languages, but there is a distinct difference in ho ithey view their parents' feelings toward foreign languages and the greatest difference is in their own opinions.

Although both groups were against the elimination of the teaching of foreign languages in American schools (those answering Form I were 72.4% against elimination of foreign language instruction and those



drawering Form II were 64.4% against it), both groups were negative lower requiring foreign language study. To be XII chaws responses given by both groups toward foreign language study requirements.

TABLE XII Responses Against Foreign Language Requirements

| Question | Percentage responses | of negative by students |
|--|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| | Form I' | Form (1 |
| To what extent are you in favor of requiring that everyone take a foreign language at some time during his schooling. | 57 . 9# | 50,3% |
| To what extent are you in favor of requiring that everyone begin a foreign language in elementary school and continue with that same foreign language until graduation from high | 70.0% | 77.3% |
| school? | • | |

As can be seen, the more stringent the requirement the more opposition it received from the students of both groups. Both groups showed favorable responses toward beginning foreign language study in elementary school and also toward an alternate program of four years of foreign language study. The opposition seems to be in requiring them to participate in the program.

In a comparison of the types of foreign language skills that students wanted to achieve, it was observed that Form II respondents were again more positive toward the desired skills, but also of importance is that both groups displayed an interest in the same types of



skills. Table XIII indicates the desired skill and the percentage of respondents from both forms of the questionnaire.

TABLE XIII

Desirability Of Skills To Be Learned

| Skill | Percentage of students wanting that skill | | |
|------------------------------------|---|---------|--|
| | Form I | Form II | |
| Engage in everyday conversation | 75.2% | 87.5% | |
| Listen to news broadcasts | 49.4% | 63.8% | |
| Enjoy films | 58.1% | 72.0% | |
| Read classical literature | 41.1% | 62.5% | |
| Read newspapers and magazines | 52.3% | 73.5% | |
| Write letters for various purposes | 58.8% | 70.5% | |
| Write stories and articles | 31.6% | 48.4% | |
| <u></u> | | | |

In all comparisons that can be made between those who answered Form I and those who answered Form II of the questionnaire, the attitudes of those who answered Form II were more favorable and more positive toward foreign languages, foreign language study and foreign cultures and people.

Comparison by Sex

A comparison of attitudes was made according to sex with both forms of the questionnaire. Table XIV shows the number of boys and



girls who answered Form I and Form II of the questionnaire.

TABLE XIV

Boys And Girls Who Answered Form | And Form | | |

| Sex | | | : | | Number of Students | | |
|-------|---|-----|---|------|--------------------|---------|-------------|
| | | | | Form | | Form II | |
| Boys | | | | 731 | | 860 | |
| Girls | , | * * | | 564 | : | 1143 | ٠ |

There was no evident difference in attitudes between the boys and the girls who responded to Form I with the exception of the final question. It asked which language they would take if they were to study a foreign language. The boys' preference was German and the girls' preference was French. Table XV shows the percentages of the language preferences for the boys and the girls who answered Form I.

TABLE XV
Language Preference for Boys and Girls

| Sex. | | | LANGUAGES | | . % |
|-------|--------|--------|-----------|-------|-------|
| | French | German | Spanish | Latin | Other |
| Boys | 19.7% | 28:2% | 22.2% | 6.3% | 14.1% |
| Girls | 27.7% | 19.2% | 23.2% | 5.0% | 10.3% |

No significant differences were found in the attitudes of the



boys and the girls who answered Form II of the questionnaire.

A Comparison of Urban, Rural and Isolated Rural Districts

of the state of Utah. Districts were polled where the children came exclusively from an urban situation and also from strictly a rural atmosphere. Many of the districts included in the inventigation were a combination of urban and rural elements. A comparison of these three types of districts revealed no differences in the attitudes of students who answered either Form 1 or Form 11 of the questionnaire.

Dropouts

Throughout the nation there is a concern for the continuance of foreign language instruction. The number of students who drop their foreign language study once they have started in the program is high. Table XVI indicates the Utah foreign language enrollments.

TABLE XVI
Utah Foreign Language Enrollments16

| | French | German | Latin | Russian | Spanish | Other | Total |
|---------|--------|--------|-------|---------|---------|-------|---------|
| 1967-68 | 8,610 | 5,824 | 794 | 392 | 9,033 | 127 | .14,760 |
| 1968-69 | 6,549 | 5,008 | 664 | 212 | 8,952 | 77 | 21,462 |
| 1969-70 | 7,184 | 5,159 | 518 | 166 | 9,821 | O | .22,848 |

Language Speaker, September 1971, 5.



In areas where local colleges and universities have foreign language entrance requirements, students enroll in foreign language classes long enough to meet the requirements and then drop their study. This is usually a period of two years. In many areas this is the highest cause for dropping foreign language study. This investigation indicates that the opposite is true in Utah. None of the institutions of higher learning in Utah require a foreign language for acceptance to This could be the reason that this is not a problem. Of the students in the study who answered Form II, 73.8% of them said that entrance requirements for colleges and universities had nothing to do with their decisions to drop their foreign language study. Table XVII shows the level of foreign language instruction and the percent of students continuing and discontinuing their foreign language study during the next school year.

Students Continuing And Discontinuing Their Foreign Language Study
During The Next School Year

| Current level of Instruction | Percen | tage of Students |
|------------------------------|------------|------------------|
| | Continuing | Discontinuing |
| Level I | 42.2% | 57.8% |
| Level 2 | 59.3% | 40.7% |
| _evel 3 | 40.0% | 60.0% |
| Level 4 | 47.4% | 52.6% |

articulation. It is felt that where programs are not well articulated, the students become discouraged and soon discontinue their foreign ianguage study. This investigation proved this to be a false assumption from the student's point of view. Table XVIII shows three questions dealing with problems of articulation and the percentage of students who responded that this did not contribute to their decisions to discontinue studying a foreign language.

Counselors have been blamed for programming students out of foreign language classes. This study indicated that this is not the case. Eighty-three percent of the students said this was not a contributing factor in their decision to drop the language. Form I points out on the other hand that 44% of the students said that no one ever told them to take a foreign lar wage. Counselors must surely take part of the blame for this.

TABLE XVIII
Problems Of Articulation

| | | | 9 | |
|--|--------------------|---------------|----------|----------|
| Question | | Percentage of | negative | response |
| The next year of the offered in my school | e language wasn't | | 79.8% | ; |
| I moved to high scho school and the high with different texts | school teacher tau | h ght | 78.1% | |
| I changed schools ar that I needed of the available in the new | language was not | | 84.4% | |



It is an indication that even though the counselors are not programming students out of foreign languages, they are also not programming them into foreign language courses. Containly the foreign language teacher would have to share the blame for not informing students about the advantages to foreign language knowledge.

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

On the basis of the findings of this investigation on "A Study of Student Attitudes Towards Foreign Languages in Public Secondary Schools of Utah" the following conclusions are made. Recommendations are given and suggestions made to meet the needs stated in the Conclusions.

Conclusions

It can be concluded from the data that attitudes of students are important and can and should be measured. Today's student is more epinionated and sophisticated than ever before. He is exposed to the world through mass communications and he has very definite ideas. These opinions or ideas are not always correct, but they influence how he acts. To be entirely successful, a teacher would do well to know how the students feel about foreign languages.

Students who have never been enrolled in a foreign language have positive attitudes toward foreign language study and people from foreign lands, but the data show they have not been oriented properly to understand the need to learn a foreign language. Because students indicated that no one ever told them to take a foreign language, teachers of foreign languages should take the lead in a program to inform all students as to the advantages of knowing a second language. Counselors and administrators should be involved in advising students about foreign language study and assisting the foreign language teacher in this publicity program.



According to information from the investigation, a definite positive change in attitude occurs when a student has studied a foreign language. They gain a greater tolerance for other people, they have a deeper appreciation for different cultures, and they are more willing to accept people as different and to use their own language as a means of communication. Even those students who for various reasons have discontinued their foreign language study, feel that their time in the foreign language class was beneficial to them.

The most desirable foreign language skill to the students is the ability to speak the language. This is their primary objective and expectation regarding foreign language study. A disappointment to the students and a probable cause for a loss of interest is not being able to use the language outside of the classroom or after they leave the secondary school. They want their learning to be useful and are anxious to practice what they are learning. This loss of interest is the main reason for dropping foreign language study. It comes not as a result of dislike for the teacher, but because the student is not reaching his own objectives in terms of language use.

Recommendations.

It is recommended that students be given an attitude questionnaire in each foreign language class in the state of Utah. This should be administered by the foreign language teacher to his own students and should be evaluated by the teacher himself to ascertain the needs, problems, expectations and false impressions of his own students.



Curriculum changes could then be student oriented rather than teacher or district mandated.

If the student who has never studied a foreign language is to be enrolled, a campaign must be launched in each secondary school with guidelines from the State Board of Education to coordinate the activities. The campaign should concentrate on information geared to the student level and dealing with advantages of knowing a second language. These arguments should be realistic and within the grasp of every student. Publicity should include not only students, but parents, community leaders, counselors, administrators and other teachers should be given information dealing with foreign language study.

Students need to be given opportunities to use the foreign anguages they are learning. Their own expectations indicate the desire to speak the language. It is therefore recommended that the following activities be adopted as part of the curriculum throughout the state of Utah in order to give the students more opportunity to use the language. These activities are suggested to meet the expressed need.

- Classroom activities should involve much oral practice not only on the imitation and memorizing levels, but especially at the level of free selection and communication. Students should feel at ease while using the language with each other within the limits of the vocabulary they have learned.
- 2. Assignments outside the classroom should include task-oriented projects. They should be given with the idea in mind that students must use the language in order to complete the assignment. This might include such activities as telephone conversations with native speakers, personal



interviews with native speakers, concerts, movies and plays in the foreign language, eating at foreign restaurants where the language is spoken, purchasing goods from foreign merchants, listening to lectures by native speakers, taking a fellow student on a tour of a local tourist attraction and explain it in the language, or any other activity that requires the use of the skills in the language,

- 3. Language clubs should be organized not only on an individual school basis, but on a district basis as well. A state-wide foreign language convention should be held on a yearly basis to allow students to exchange ideas to improve their local language clubs, to engage in activities in the language and to meet other language students and use the foreign language with them.
- 4. Foreign language fairs and contests involving all students should be held on district, regional and state-wide levels. They should be expanded and coordinated to be culminated at the state level with all fairs offering equal opportunities to students throughout the state. All fairs should use the same contests and activities in a given year.
- 5. Language camps should be part of the regular curriculum of language learning. Weekend camps should be conducted by school districts several times during the school year and coordinated with the local courses of study. Regional language camps should be held during the summer for a minimum of one week duration. All activities should be in the foreign language and special effort should be made to make them as culturally authentic as possible.



de

where the target language is spoken. This should be a program that would not just be a tourist trip through the country, but should be so organized that students must use the foreign language while in the country.

Student attitudes are important. They are not always right in their opinions, but how they feel and the goals they set for themselves give direction to the way they react. This is true in regard to their toreign language study. If their expectations are not met in the foreign language class, they will discontinue their study and often statitute other classes to meet those goals. Enrollments in foreign languages will improve only when the needs of the students are first known and then steps taken to meet them. Teachers of foreign languages should use attitude questionnaires to take the pulse of their students. They hould use the information gleaned from this study and studies of similar design with their own students, to formulate their own courses of study that will meet the needs of their students.

- APPENDIX A

FOREIGN LANGUAGE ATTITUDE QUESTIONNAIRE (FORM I)

Instructions

This questionnaire is intended for students who have never been enrolled in a foreign language course. This is not a test. Your grades will in no way be affected by your answers. You are being asked to fill out/this questionnaire to help foreign language educators provide a foreign language curriculum of the highest quality. One kind of information that would help them is an honest expression of student opinion on this matter. Please let your true feelings be known. This is your chance to "tell it like it is" in your own mind. Thank you for your cooperation.

For questions one through thirty-two, mark your answer sheet after reading the question and its numbered answers. Completely fill the area between the pair of lines. If you change your mind, erase your first mark completely.

- Have you ever studied a language other than English outside of school? I yes 2 no
- 2. If "yes" under what circumstances?
 - I while living abroad 2 in a language camp 3 at home
 - 4 through television 5 other
 - (If "no" skip this question.)

What are the reasons you have never studied a foreign language in school? Check all of the reasons that apply to you by marking I true. Those that do not apply mark 2 false.

- 3. None of the schools I have attended offered a foreign language course.
- 4. I already know a language other than English, so there was no need to study one in school.
- 5. I postponed taking a foreign language, perhaps until lafer in high school or even in college.
- 6. No one ever told me to take a foreign language.
- It was suggested to me that I take a foreign language but I was never convinced of its value.
- 8. There was not enough time to take a foreign language, as I was



busy with too many other commune I wanted on high to take.

- 9. I thought a foreign language course would be too difficult.
- 10. I thought a foreign Lappuage course would not be worth the order.
- II. I did not like the foreign language teachers.
- 12. I did not like the way in which foreign languages were taught in my school.
- 13. I wanted to take a foreign language, but the one I wanted was not offered in my school.
- 14. My parents advised me not to take a foreign language.
- 15. My friends didn't take a foreign language and so I didn't either.
- 16. My grades in my English class were too low to allow me to enroll for a foreign language.
- 17. I didn't have an high enough grade point average to allow me to enroll for a foreign language.
- 18. I don't need a foreign language for college entrance.
- 19. A counselor advised me not to take a foreign language.
- 20. One or more of my teachers advised me not to take a foreign language.
- I feel that foreigners should speak English when they are in America and therefore there was no reason for me to learn a foreign language.
- 122. I will never travel to a foreign country and so I will not have to
- 23. The occupation I have chosen does not require a foreign language.
- therefore felt it a waste of time to learn a foreign language in subsol.
- 25. The foreign language classes do not place enough emphasis on the poople, their culture and their civilization.
- No. I didn't need the credit.
- 27. I do not know anyone who speaks a foreign language.



- 28. My chosen vocation does not require a foreign language.
- 29. I am not going on to college and therefore will not need a foreign language.
- I have a hard time memorizing and language study is nothing but memorization.

The following are various skills that a foreign language course can emphasize. Assuming that one day you might wish to take a fireign language course, which of these skills would you be interested in learning? Rate cach of them by marking one of the five numbers on your answer sheet as follows:

- I great interest 2 some interest 3 very little interest 4 no interest 5 no opinion
- 31. Being able to engage in an everyday conversation with native speakers of that language.
- 32. Being able to liston to news broadcasts in that language. * $_{\Sigma}$
- 33. Being able to enjoy films in the original language.
- 34. Being able to read the classical literature in that language.
- 35. Being able to read the current literature in that language, e.g., newspapers, magazines, best sellers.
- 36. Being able to write letters in that language for various purposes, e.g., business, social.
- 37. Being able to write stories, articles, etc. in that language.
- 38. Being able to speak on a given subject with a native speaker of that language.

Rate the following questions on your answer sheet as indicated.

- 39. How well do you think you would be able to learn a foreign language?

 I very easy 2 easy 3 not so easy 4 not at all 5 no opinion
- 40. How likely do you think it is that you will one day be a fluent speaker of a foreign language?
 'I very likely 2 possible 3 very unlikely 4 no chance 5 no opinion

- .41. How important do you think a foreign language could be to you in your life?

 I very important 2 important 3 not so important
 4 not at all 5 no opinion
- 42. Do you think our lack of knowledge of foreign languages accounts for many of our political difficulties abroad?

 I very likely 2 possible 3 very unlikely 4 no 5 no opinion
- 43. How important do you think it is for Americans to learn a foreign language.
 I very important 2 important 3 not too important 4 not important at all 5 no opinion

Mark the following questions on your answer sheet according to this pattern: I yes 2 no 3 no opinion

- 44. If a special foreign language course had been available in which almost all the time had been spent on the study of foreign culture in English would you have taken it?
- 45. Do you wish you could speak a foreign language like a native speaker?
- 46. If you had to stay in another country for an extended period of time, would you make a great effort to learn the language spoken there even though you could get along in English?
- 47. If a foreign language other than those already taught in your school had been offered, would you have taken it?
- 48. If other teachers other than those now teaching foreign languages had taught the foreign language classes would you have taken one?
- 49. Are you planning on taking a foreign language sometime in the future?
- 50. Would you go out of your way to help or understand the problems of a person who is not a native American?
- 51. Do you feel that taking a foreign language would make you more tolerant or sympathetic toward foreigners?
- 52. Do you feel that people who come to America should speak English?

In your judgment, to what extent do the following people consider foreign language study important? Mark your answer sheet as follows:

Lextremely important 2 important 3 no so, important

4 unimportant 5 no opinion

- 53. your parents
- 54. your triends
- 55. Your high school teachers other than foreign language teachers
- 56. society as a whole
- 57. yourself :
- 58. school administrators (principal)
- 59. school counselors
- 60. foreign language meachers in your school
- 61. the school board
- 62. the superintendent of schools

- l very much in favor 2 slightly in favor 3 not in favor
- 63. beginning the study of a foreign language in elementary school
- 64. having four years of foreign language study in junior high and/or high school
- 65. eliminating the teaching of foreign languages in American, schools
- 66. requiring that everyone take a foreign language at some time during his schooling
- 67. requiring that everyone begin a foreign language in elementary school and continue with that same foreign language until graduation from high school
- 68. If you were to take a foreign language, which one would you choose? I French 2 German 3 Spanish 4 Latin 5 other

APPENDIX B

THE STUDENT FOREIGN LANGUAGE ATTITUDE QUESTI DEMAINS (FORM C)

This questionnaine is intended for students who have providedly been or are now enrolled in a foreign language course. This is not a test. Your grades will in no way be affected by your answers. You are being asked to fill out this questionnaire to help foreign language educators provide a foreign language curriculum of the highest quality. One kind of information that would help them is an honest expression of student opinion on this matter. Please let your true feelings be known. This is your chance to "tell it like it is" in your own mind. Thank you for your deeperation.

NOTE: Many of the questions make reference to speaking the toreign language and its use in travel, etc. If the foreign language you are studying is Latin, these questions may not apply to you. You may skip them and answer the other questions that are relevant.

Read each question and its numbered answers. When you have decided which answer you want to make, blacken the corresponding space on the answer sheet. If you change your mind, erase your first mark completely.

- Which foreign language are you studying now (or have you studied in the past) in school?I French 2 German 3 Latin 4 Spanish 5 other
- 2. If you are studying more than one foreign language, which other languages (other than the one listed in question one) are you studying (or have you studied). Skip this question if it does not apply.

 I French 2 German 3 Letin 4 Spanish 5 other
- 3. Do you personally know anyone (other than your language teacher) who can speak a language other than English?

 I yes 2 no

Indicate whether or not each of the following influenced you in the choice of the foreign language you are studying. Mark your answer sheet as follows: , I yes 2 no

- 4. your parents
- your friend(s)
- 6. your high school teacher
- 7. your high school counselor



- 8. college entrance requirement
- 9. vocational requirements

What were your reasons for choosing the foreign language you are studying?

10. There was no other language available for study.
I true
2 false

NOTE: If you checked "true" skip to question 21. If you checked "false" answer questions II through 20.

For each item listed below, rate the importance it had for you by marking your answer sheet as follows:

I very important 2 slightly important 3 unimportant

- II. This language is prettier (sounce better, is more musical, etc.) than others I could have taken.
- 12. This language seemed easier than others I could have taken.
- 13. This language seemed of great importance in today's world.
- 14. This language will probably be useful in getting a good job some day.
- 15. This language will be useful in my probable field of study, e.g., medicine, law, teaching, graduate work.
- 16. I want to visit the country where the language is spoken.
- 17. I want to understand better the people who speak this language and their way of life.
- 18. This language will enrich my background and broaden my cultural horizons.
- 19. This language is (or was at one time) spoken by my relatives or persons who are (or were) close to me.
- 20. Knowledge of this language will add to my social status.

The following are various skills that a foreign language course can emphasize. Rate the extent to which you are interested in each of them by marking your answer sheet as follows:

I great interest 2 some interest 3 no interest

21. being able to engage in an everyday conversation with native speakers of this language



- All. being able to listen to news broadcasts in this language
- 23. being able to anjoy films in the original implante
- 24. being able to read the classical literature is this landwise
- 25. being able to read the corrent literature in this language, e.g., newspapers, magazines, best sellers:
- being able to write letters in this language for various curposes, e.g., business, social
- 27. being able to write stories, articles, etc. in this language

Indicate the extent to which you are satisfied with each of the following aspects of your foreign language courses by marking your answer sheet as follows:

I quite satisfied — 2 fairly satisfied — 3 dissatisfied

- 28. the type of skills (listening, speaking, reading, writing) you were taught in the course
- 29. The fextbooks you have used
- 30. the classroom activities
- 31. the language laboratory (leave blank if there is no language in the atory)
- 32. the homework you were assigned
- 33. the readings you were assigned
- 34. the outside opportunities you have had to practice the language
- 35. the information you received from your teacher as to how you were progressing in the language course
- 36. the way your progress and achievement were evaluated (grades)
- 37. the overall amount of time you were given for study
- 38. the reacher's personality
- 39. the teacher's ability to speak the language
- 40. the teacher's ability to help you learn (his helpfulness)
- 41. the teacher's availability for consultation outside the regular classroom
- 42. the foreign language club activities



- Mark your answers on the answer sheet as follows:
- 43. Do you feel the teacher placed too much emphasis on speaking correctly?
- 244. Would you have found it helpful to be able to use the language more to express your thoughts even if it meant speaking incorrectly?
- 45. Would you have liked to spend more time discussing the culture of the people whose language you were studying?
- 46. Could you have accomplished more if the foreign language you took had been organized in a different way?
- 47. Do you wish you could speak a foreign language like a native speaker?
- 48. If you had to stay in another country for an extended period of time, would you nake a great effort to learn the language spoken there even though you could get along in English?
- 49. How important is it for Americans to learn foreign languages?

 I extremely important 2 important 3 not so important
- 50. Would you say that the time you have spent in studying a foreign language has been beneficial to you?

 I definitely yes 2 yes 3 not sure 4 no

In your judgment, to what extent do the following people consider foreign language study important? Mark your answers on the answer sheet as follows:

- I extremely important 2 important 3 not so important
- 51. your parents
- 52. your friends
- 53. your high school teachers other than foreign language teacher
- 54. society as a whole
- 55. yourself
- 56. school administrators (principals)
- 57. school counselors
- 58. your fore un language teacher .
- 59. The school board



cu. the superintendent of schools

To what extent are you in favor of the following? Mark your answer sheets as follows:

- I very much in favor 2 slightly in favor 3 .not in favor
- ol. beginning the study of a foreign language in elementary behave
- 62. having four years of foreign language study in high school
- 03. aliminating the teaching of foreign languages in American schools
- od. requiring that everyone take a foreign language at some time during their schooling
- 65. requiring that everyone begin a foreign language in elementary school and continuing with that same foreign language until they graduate from high school
- oo. Lam still studying a foreign language.
 Lyes 2 no
- 67. I plan to continue my foreign language study next year.
 I yes 2 no

If your answer was "yes" to both questions 66 and 67, do not complete the remainder of the questionnaire. If you answer was "no" to either of these questions, please complete the remainder of the questionnaire.

If your answer is "no" please mark those reasons that contributed to your decision not to continue studying a foreign language as follows:

I contributed greatly 2 contributed somewhat 3 did not contribute

- 68. The language as it was taught was not relevant and worthwhile.
- 69. There wasn't enough emphasis on the people and their civilization.
- 70. There wasn't enough emphasis on vocabulary and grammar.
- 71. I didn't like the teacher.
- 72. I would have preferred another language not offered in my school.
- 73. The language became more difficult, and I couldn't keep up any longer.
- 74. I changed schools, and the language I had studied wash't taught in the new school.
- .75. The teacher was too dependent on the text.

- 76. We tried to rever too much the fast.
- 77. I didn't meed the credit.
- 178. There was not abough exportanity for individual practice in the lab.
- 79. There wasn't enough emphasis on reading and writing.
- हो. I had all the language I needed for college entrance.
- M. Iswanded to switch to another language which I incugnt i would like better.
- ਲ.. The language program was not intensive enough.
- 83. The language was too hard for me.
- 84. There was too much emphasis on grammar.
- 85. The teacher could not maintain dis 'pline.
- 86. There was too much memorizing.
- 87. Students from more than one course (for example, Spanish III and IV) were combined into one class period, and that wasn't very satisfactory.
- 88. The time necessary for language study was hurting my grades in other subjects.
- 89. A guidance counsalor advised me to drop.
- 90. There was too much difference in instruction by different teachers.
- 9). The next year of the language wasn't offered in my school.
- 92. It was easy to make good grades without learning anything.
- 93. I just didn't feel any more language was worthwhile.
- 94. We weren't learning to understand the spoken language.
- 95. I didn't have enough time to study the language as much as I should.
- 96. My language teacher advised me to drop.
- 97. I preferred to study another subject instead of a language.

- 98. I lost interest in studying the language.
- 99. I didn't like working in the lab.
- 100. The teacher did most of the talking.
- 101. I was lazy and didn't study enough.
- 102. I didn't like the textbook.
- 103. There was too much emphasis on reading and writing.
- 104. I didn't have good teachers.
- 105. The teacher didn't like the class.
- 106. I only intended to take it for this long.
- 107. The teacher really didn't do much teaching.
- 108. All we did was watch television.
- 109. Another teacher advised me to drop.
- 110. I didn't want to study a language but had to and stopped as soon as I could.
- III. The teacher did not seem to know the language well.
- 112. The teacher's grading system was too severe.
- 113. The teacher and I didn't get along.
- 114. The language was too easy and didn't challenge me.
- 115. There was too much emphasis on speaking the language.
- 116. I wasn't permitted to study the language I wanted to study.
- 117. I was tired of the same teacher.
- 118. I had to take another subject which conflicted with the language course.
- 119. My parents advised me to drop.
- 120. The repetition was boring.
- 121. I didn't like to study literature.
- 122. I had a poor background for the next level.



- 123. The teacher didn't pay sufficient attention to problems of the individual.
- 124. I preferred to take another subject which conflicted with the language course.
- 125. We didn't have much opportunity to participate in class.
- 126. The quality of instruction was poor.
- 127. There was too much translation.
- 128. We weren't learning to speak the language.
- 129. I wasn't able to become fluent, which was my reason for sludying the language.
- 130. All we did was memorize dialogs.
- 131. I moved to high school from junior high school and the high school teacher taught with different texts, methods, etc.
- 132. I changed schools and the next course that I needed of the language was not available in the new school.

APPENDIX C

RESPONSES TO FORM I

Responses given to each individual question in Form L follow with the top figure representing the number of students designating that part of the question as their answer. The percent figure directly underneath is the total percentage of students designating that part of the question as their answer.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE ATTITUDE QUESTIONNAIRE (FORM I)

For questions one through thirty-two, mark your answer sheet after reading the question and its numbered answers. Completely fill the area between the pair of lines. If you change your mind, erase your first mark completely.

1. Have you even studied a language other than English outside of school? I yes 2 no

136 1047 11.6% 87.6%

If "yes" under what circumstances?

while living abroad 2 in a language camp 3 at home 4 through television 5 other (If "no" skip this question.)

9 37 60 27 45 0.8% 3.1% 5.0% 2.2% 3.8%

What are the reasons you have never studied a foreign language inschool? Check all of the reasons that apply to you by marking I true. Those that do not apply mark 2 false.

 None of the schools I have attended offered a foreign language course.

> 60 1109 5.6% 92.8%

4. I already know a language other than English, so there was no need to study one in school.

51 1127 4.3% 94.3% 5. I postponed taking a foreign language, perhaps until fater in high school or even in college.

524 637 43.8% 53.3%

6. No one ever told me to take a foreign language.

415 756 34.7% 63.3%

7. It was suggested to me that I take a foreign language but I was never convinced of its value.

504 673 42.2% 56.3%

8. There was not enough time to take a foreign language, as I was busy with too many other courses I wanted or had to take.

701 479 58.7% 40.1%

9. I thought a foreign language course would be too difficult.

53! 634 44.4% 53.1%

10. I thought a foreign language course would not be worth the effort.

\ \ \ 406 \ 763 \ \ 34.0\% \ 63.8\%

Ib. I did not like the foreign language teachers.

180 986 15.1% 82.5%

12. I did not like the way in which foreign languages were taught in my school.

167 992 14.0% 83.0%

13. I wanted to take a foreign language, but the one I wanted was not offered in my school.

242 926 82.5% 14. My parents advised me not to take a foreign language.

125 1044 10,5% 87,4%

15. My friends didn't take a foreign language and so I didn't either.

194 973 81.4%

16. My grades in my English class were too low to allow me to enroll for a foreign language.

> 243 920 20.3% 77.0%

17. I didn't have an high enough grade point average to allow me to enroll for a foreign language.

> 204 961 17.1% 82.4%

18. I don't need a foreign language for college entrance.

605 524 50.6% 43.8%

19. A counselor advised me not to take a foreign language.

77 | 1103 6.4% | 92.3%

20. One or more of my teachers advised me not to take a foreign language.

90 1086 7.5% 90.9%

21. I feel that foreigners should speak English when they are in America and therefore there was no reason for me to learn a foreign language.

198 970 16.6% 81.2%

22. I will never travel to a foreign country and so I will not have to learn another language.

192 976 16.1% 81.7% 23. The occupation I have chosen does not require a foreign language.

721 435 60,3% 36,4%

24. I can learn a foreign language faster when I get to the country and therefore felt it a waste of time to learn a foreign language in school.

205 960 17.2% 80.3%

25. The foreign language classes do not place enough emphasis on the people, their culture and their civilization.

> 241 895 20.2% 74.9%

26. I didn't need the credit.

646 505 54.1% 42.3%

27. I do not know anyone who speaks a foreign language.

190 980 15.9% 82.0%

28. My chosen vocation does not require a foreign language.

253 907 21.2% 75.9%

29. I am not going on to college and therefore will not need a foreign language.

404 747 33.8% 62.5%

30. I have a hard time memorizing and language study is nothing but memorization.

253 689 21.2% 57.7%

The following are various skills that a foreign language course can emphasize. Assuming that one day you might wish to take a foreign language course, which of these skills would you be interested in learning? Rate each of them by marking one of the five numbers on your answer sheet as follows:



I great interest 2 some interest 3 very little interest 4 no interest 5 no opinion

 Being able to engage in an everyday conversation with native speakers of that language.

> 419 479 131 88 06 35.1% 40.1% 11.9% 7.4% 5.5%

32. Being able to listen to news broadcasts in that language.

 195
 396
 265
 254
 75

 16.3%
 33.1%
 22.2%
 21.3%
 6.3%

33. Being able to enjoy films in the original language.

 287
 408
 244
 169
 62

 24.0%
 34.1%
 20.4%
 14.1%
 5.2%

34. Being able to read the classical literature in that language.

 180
 311
 298
 288
 95

 15.1%
 26.0%
 24.9%
 24.1%
 7.9%

35. Being able to read the current literature in that language, e.g., newspapers, magazines, best sellers.

> 228 397 259 232 69 19.1% 33.2% 21.7% 19.4% 5.8%

36. Being able to write letters in that language for various purposes, e.g., business, social.

310 393 220 202 58 25.9% 32.9% 18.4% 16.9% 4.9%

37. Being able to write stories, articles, etc. in that language.

 138
 240
 309
 401
 78

 11.5%
 20.1%
 25.9%
 33.6%
 6.5%

38. Being able to speak on a given subject with a native speaker of that language.

326 384 204 187 64 27.3% 32.1% 17.1% 15.6% 5.4%

Rate the following questions on your answer sheet as indicated.

39. How well do you think you would be able to learn a foreign language?

I very easy 2 easy 3 not so easy 4 not at all 5 no opinion

 80
 404
 568
 47
 88

 6.7%
 33.8%
 47.5%
 3.9%
 7.4%

40. How likely do you think it is that you will one day be a fluent speaker of a foreign language?

I very likely 2 possible 3 very unlikely 4 no chance 5 no opinion

111 443 366 191 77 9.3% 37.1% 30.6% 16.0% 6.4%

41. How important do you think a foreign language could be to you in -your life?

l very important 2 important 3 not(so important 4 not at all 5 no opinion

 195
 342
 452
 93
 90

 16.3%
 28.6%
 37.8%
 7.8%
 7.5%

42. Do you think our lack of knowledge of foreign languages accounts for many of our political difficulties abroad?

I very likely 2 possible 3 very unlikely 4 no 5 no opinion

 143
 457
 234
 204
 128

 12.0%
 38.2%
 19.6%
 17.1%
 10.7%

43. How important do you think it is for Americans to learn a foreign language?

l very important 2 important 3 not too important 4 not important at all 5 no opinion

 180
 440
 414
 50
 96

 15.1%
 36.8%
 34.6%
 4.2%
 8.0%

Mark the following questions on your answer sheet according to this pattern: I yes 2 no 3 no opinion

44. If a special foreign language course had been available in which almost all the time had been spent on the study of foreign culture in English, would you have taken it?

265 599 293 22.2% 50.1% 24.5% 45. Do you wish you could speak a foreign language like a native speaker?

739 260 \ 146 61.8% 21.8% | 12.2%

46. If you had to stay in another country for an extended period of time, would you make a great effort to learn the language spoken there even though you could get along in English?

863 154 123 72.2% 12.9% 10.3%

47. If a foreign language other than those already taught in your school had been offered, would you have taken it?

274 577 310 22.9% 48.3% 25.9%

48. If other teachers other than those now teaching foreign languages had taught the foreign language classes would you have taken one?

168 665 331 14.1% 55.6% 27.7%

49. Are you planning on taking a foreign language sometime in the future?

532 364 248 44.5% 30.5% 20.8%

50. Would you go out of your way to help or understand the problems of a person who is not a native American?

722 | 139 | 27 | 60.4% | 11.6% | 22.7%

51. Do you feel that taking a foreign language would make you more tolerant or sympathetic toward foreigners?

515 382° 263 43.1% 32.0% 22.0%

52. Do you feel that people who come to America should speak English?

 447
 390
 319

 37.4%
 32.6%
 26.7%

224 18.7%

109 9.1%

| | | | | | | ţ |
|---------------------------------------|--|----------------|------------------------|----------------|----------------------|------------------|
| for∈ | our judgment, to eign language stu extremely importa 4 unimpo | idy important | ? Mark-you ortant 3 | r answer sh | eet as ioklo | .) w .S.; |
| 53. | your parents | | | | | |
| | 122 10.2% | 324 27.1% | 430 36.0% | 150 12.6% | 120 10.0% | |
| 54. | your friends | * | | | | |
| • | 51 4.3% | 194 - 16.2% | 503 42.1% | 276 23.1% | 132 . 11.0% | |
| 55. | your high school | l teachers o | ther than fo | oreign lang | uage teacher | - S |
| | 186 15.6% | 388 32.5% | 273 22.8% | 87 7.3% | 23 7 19.8% | |
| 56. | society as a wh | ole | | š. | | |
| · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | 78 6.5% | 312 26.1% | 441 36.9% | 168 14.1% | 171 14.3% | ı |
| 57. | yourself | * * | • | | | |
| | 190 15.9% | 354 29.6% | 364 30.5% | 173 14.5% | 76 6.4% | |
| 58. | school administ | rators (prin | cipal) | , e | | : |
| ż | 199 16.7% | 419 35.1% | 209 17.5% | 96 8.0% | 235 19.7% | |
| 59. | school counselo | rs | | | | |
| | 184 15.4% | 456 38.2% | 224 18.7% | 87 7.3% | 222 18.0% | |
| 60. | foreign languag | e teachers i | n your schoo |) i | : | |
| | 713 59.7% | 243 20.3% | 68 5.7% | 49 4.1% | 98 8.2% | |
| 61. | the school boar | d , ~ | | ÷ | | |

145 12.1%、

411 34.4% 256 21.4% 62. the superintendent of schools

| 156 ⁻ | 386 - | 229 | 105 | 279 |
|------------------|-------|-------|--------|--------|
| 13.1% | 32.3% | 19.2% | - 8.8% | -23.3% |

To what extent are you in favor of the following? Mark the answers on your answer sheet as follows:

l very much in favor 2 slightly in favor 3 not in favor

63. beginning the study of a foreign language in elementary school

| 350 | 472 | 312 |
|-------|-------|-------|
| 29.3% | 39.5% | 26.1% |

64. having four years of foreign language study in junior high and/or high school

| | | = | . 4 |
|-------|---------|---|-------|
| 229 | 472 | • | 428 - |
| 19.2% | 39., 59 | 6 | 35.8% |

65. eliminating the teaching of foreign languages in American schools

| 3 | 174 | 865 |
|------|-------|-------|
| 7.4% | 14.6% | 72.4% |

66. requiring that everyone take a foreign language in elementary school and continue with that same foreign language until graduation from high school

```
69 160 837
5.8% 13.4% 70.0%
```

67. requiring that everyone take a foreign language at some time during his schooling

| 1.69 | 254 | 692 |
|----------|-------|-------|
| 14.1% | 21.3% | 59.9% |

68. If you were to take a foreign language, which one would you choose? I French 2 German 3 Spanish 4 Latin 5 other

| 251 | 293 | 298 | 74 | 163 |
|-------|-------|-------|------|-------|
| 21.0% | 24.5% | 24.9% | 6.2% | 13.6% |

APPENDIX D

RESPONSES TO FORM HI

Responses given to each individual question in Form II follow with the top figure representing the number of students designating that part of the question as their answer. The percent figure directly underneath is the total percentage of students designating that part of the question as their answer.

',FOREIGN LANGUAGE ATTITUDE QUESTIONNAIRE (FORM II)

This questionnaire is intended for students who have previously been or are now enrolled in a foreign language course. This is not a test. Your grades will in no way be affected by your answers. You are being asked to fill out this questionnaire to help foreign language educators provide a foreign language curriculum of the highest quality. One kind of information that would help them is an honest expression of student opinion on this matter. Please let your true feelings be known. This is your chance to "tell it like it is" in your own mind. Thank you for your cooperation.

NOTE: Many of the questions make reference to speaking the foreign ianguage and its use in travel, etc. If the foreign language you are studying is Latin, these questions may not apply to you. You may skip them and answer the other questions that are relevant.

Read each question and its numbered answers. When you have decided which answer you want to make, blacken the corresponding space on the answer sheet. If you change your mind, erase your first mark completely.

I. Which foreign language are you studying now (or have you studied in the past) in school?

l French 2 German 3 Latin 4 Spanish 5 other

528 463 8 973 12 26.1% 22.9% 0.4% 48.0% 0.6%

2. If you are studying more than one foreign language, which other languages (other than the one listed in question one) are you studying (or have you studied). Skip this question if it does not apply.

I French 2 German 3 Latin 4 Spanish 5 other

 108
 61
 12
 125
 38

 5.3\$
 3.0%
 0.6%
 6.2%
 1.9%



Do you personally know anyone (other than your language teacher) who can speak a language other than English?

yes 2 no

1727 85.3% 11.2%

Indicate whether or not each of the following influenced you in the choice of the foreign language you are studying. Mark your answer sheet as follows: l yes 2 no

4. your parents

927 1040 45.8% 51.4%

your friend(s)

984 996 48.6% 49.2%

6. your high school teacher

279 1665 13.8% 82.2%

your high school counselor

110 1833 90.5% 5.4%

college entrance requirement

469 1481 23.2% 73.1%

vocational requirements

326 163c 16.1% 80.8%

What were your reasons for choosing the foreign language you are studying?

10. There was no other language available for study. 2 false

> 272 1731 13.4% 85.5%

NOTE: If you checked "true" skip to question 21. If you checked "false" answer questions II through 20.

For each item listed below, rate the importance it had for you by marking your answer sheet as follows:

I very important 2 slightly important 3 unimportant

II. This language is prettier (sounds better, is more musical, etc.)
than others I could have taken.

209 699 861 10.3% 34.5% 42.5%

12. This language seemed easier than others I could have taken.

385 711 671 19.0% 35.1% 33.1%

13. This language seemed of great importance in today's world.

424 814 536 20.9% 6 40.2% 26.5%

14. This language will probably be useful in getting a good job some day.

431 691 654 21.3% 34.1% 32.3%

15. This language will be useful in my probable field of study, e.g., medicine, law, teaching, graduate work.

> 430 650 690 21.2% 32.1% 34.1%

16. I want to visit the country where the language is spoken.

1060 514 194 52.3% 25.4% 9.6%

17. I want to understand better the people who speak this language and their way of life.

> 680 761 333 33.6% 37.6% 16.4%

18. This language will enrich my background and broaden my cultural horizons.

771 704 298 38.1% 34.8% 14.7% 19. This language is (or was at one time) spoken by my relatives or persons who are (or were) close to me.

487 449 829 24.0% 22.2% 40.9%

20. Knowledge of this language will add to my social status.

351 626 787 17.3% 30.9% 38.9%

The following are various skills that a foreign language course can emphasize. Rate the extent to which you are interested in each of them by marking your answer sheet as follows:

I great interest 2 some interest 3 no interest

21. being able to engage in an everyday conversation with native speakers of this language.

941 830 225 46.5% 41.0% 11.1%

22. being able to listen to news broadcasts in this language

397 896 709 19.6% 44.2% 35.0%

23. being able to enjoy films in the original language

618 850 523 30.5% 42.0% 25.8%

24. being able to read the classical literature in this language

434 832 729 21.4% 41.1% 36.0%

25. being able to read the current literature in this language, e.g., newspapers, magazines, best sellers

609 878 509 30.1% 43.4% 25.1%.

26. being able to write letters in this language for various purposes, e.g., business, social

626 801 570 30.9% 39.6% 28.1% 27. being able to write stories, articles, etc. in this language

273. 706 1013 13.5% 34.9% 50.0%

Indicate the extent to which you are satisfied with each of the following aspects of your foreign language courses by marking your answer sheet as follows:

I quite satisfied

2 fairly satisfied

3 dissatisfied

28° the type of skills (listening, speaking, reading, writing) you were taught in the course

713 977 304 35.2% 48.2% 15.0%

29. the textbooks you have used

616 954 428 30.4% 47.1% 21.1%

30. the classroom activities

836 773 395 41.3% 38.2% 19.5%

the language laboratory (leave blank if there is no language laboratory)

 183
 323
 218

 9.0%
 16.0%
 10.8%

32. the homework you were assigned

517 950 531 25.5% 46.9% 26.2%

33. the readings you were assigned

510 979 502 25.2% 48.3% 24.8%

34. the outside opportunities you have had to practice the language

398 64) 951 19.7% 31,7% 47.0%

35. the information you received from your teacher as to how you were progressing in the language course

612 788 594 30.2% 38.9% 29.3% 36. The way your progress and achievement were evaluated (grades)

008 39.5%

429 21.2%

17. the overall amount of time you were given for study

571

941

28.2%

46.5%

24.3%

38. The teacher's personality*

982

449

1 1 28.3% - 22.2%

39. the teacher's ability to speak the language

1462

381

144

72.2%

18.8%

7.1%

40. The Teacher's ability to help you learn (his helpfulness)

924

651

412 /

45.6%··· 32.4% (20.3% (-- · · · · · · · ·

the teacher's availability for consultation outside the regular classroom.

39.24

42. the foreign language club activities

453

27.45

31.0%

Mark your answers on the answer sheet as follows: 2 fo - 3 na goinion. 1 705

A3. On you feel the teacher placed too much emphasis on speaking -correctly?

1524"

224

+12.71

75.3£

11.13

World you have found it heinful to be able to use the language more to express your thoughts even if it meant speaking incorrectly? -

-770

408

30.24 18.04 120.14

45. Would you have liked to spend more time discussing the culture of the people whose language you were studying?

958 820 231 .47.3% 40.5% 11.4%

.46. Could you have accomplished more if the foreign language you took had been organized in a different way?

785 755 468 38.8% 37.3% 23.1%

47. Do you wish you could speak a foreign language like a native speaker?

1695 ° 169 127 82.7% 8.3% 6.3%

48. If you had to stay in another country for an extende period of time, would you make a great effort to learn the language spoken there even though you could get along in English?

1662 150 185 82.1% 7.4% 9.1%

49. How important is it for Americans to learn foreign languages?

I extremely important 2 important 3 not so important

656 998 359 -2.4% 49.3% 17.7% -

'50. Would you say that the time you have spent in studying a foreign language has been beneficial to you?

definitely yes 2 yes 3 not sure 4 no

527 728 515 245 26.0% 36.0% 25.4% 12.1%.

In your judgment, to what extent do the following people consider foreign language study important? Mark your answers on the answer sheet as follows:

l extremely important 2 important 3 not so important

51. your parents

403 1019 576 19.9% 50.3% 28.4%

52. your friends

70 544 1378 3.5% 26.9% 68.0%

23. your high school teachers other than foreign language reacher

374 • 884 688 18.5% 43.7% 34.0%

54. society as a whole

177 882 923 8.7% 43.5% 45.5%

55. yourself.

768 893 321 37.9% 44.1% 15.9%

56. *school administrators (principals)

327 1032 57 16.1% 51.0% 28.3%

57. school counselors

355 1003 601 17.5^g 49.5% 29.7%

58. your foreign nguage teacher

1491 349 142 73.6% 17.2% 7.0%

59. the school board

259 1046 616 12.8% 51.7% 30.4%

60. the superintendent of schools

273 991 645 13.5% 48.9% 51.9%

To what extent are you in favor of the following? Mark your answer sheets as follows:

I very much in favor . 2 slightly in favor 3 not in favor

.òl. beginning the study of a foreign language in elementary school

1035 627 339 51.1% 31.0% 16.7%

62. having four years of foreign language study in high school

647 833 514 32.0% 41.1% 25.4%

63. eliminating the teaching of foreign languages in American schools

63 193 1709 3.1% 9.5% 84.4%.

64. requiring that everyone take a foreign language at some time during their schooling

432 ° 532 1018 21.3% 26.3% 50.3%

65. requiring that everyone begin a foreign language in elementary school and continuing with that same foreign language until they graduate from high school

.5.3% 312 1565 .5.3% 15.4% 77.3%

66. Lam still studying a foreign language.
Lyes 2 no

1156 782 51.1% 38,6%

67. I plan to continue my foreign language study next year. I yes 2 no

> 857 1045 42.3% 51.6%

If your answer was "yes" to both questions 66 and 67, do not complete the remainder of the questionnaire. If your answer was "no" to either of these questions, please complete the remainder of the questionnaire.

If you answer is "no" please mark those reasons that contributed to your decision not to continue studying a foreign language as follows: I contributed greatly 2 contributed somewhat 3 did not contribute

68. The language as it was taught was not relevant and worthwhile.

198 17.39

506 44.3%

436 38.3%

69. There wasn's enough emphasis on the people and their civilization.

165

419

599

13.9%

35.2%

50.3%

70. There wasn't enough emphasis on vocabulary and grammar.

213

346

622

17.9%

29.0%

52,2%

71. I didn't like the teacher.

324

278

533

28.5%

24,5%

47.0%

72. I would have preferred another language not offered in my school.

172

208

752 •

15.2%

18.3%

66.3%

73. The language became more difficult, and I couldn't keep up any longer.

21.7

376

560

18.8%

32.6%

48.5%

74. I changed schools, and the language I had studied wasn't taught in the new school.

68

115

947

6.0%

10.2%

83.6%

75. The teacher was too jependent on the text.

165

327

647

14.4%

28.6%

56.7%

76. We tried to cover too much too fast.

305

336

498

26.7%

29.4%

43,6%

I didn't need the credit.

144 12.6%

270 23.6%

730 63.7%

There was not enough opportunity for individual practice in the

159

246

667

14.8%

22.9%

62.0%

There wasn't enough emphasis on reading and writing. 79.

143

329

657

12.7% 29.2%

58.3%

I had all the language I needed for co ege entrance. 80.

200

8.2%

17.9%

73.8%

I wanted to switch to another language which I thought I would like better.

94

880

8.3%

13.7%

77.6%

The language program was not intensive enough. 82.

144.

298

683

12.8%

26.4%

60.5%

The language was too hard for me. 83.

155

332

634

13.5%

29.7%

56.8%

84. There was too much emphasis on grammar.

307

634

16,7%

27.2%

56.7%

The teacher could not maintain discipline. 85.

197

241

692

11,4%

21.3%

61.0%

86. There was too much memorizing.

272 · 24.0%

332 29.3%

529 46.6%

87. Students from more than one course (for example, Spanish III and IV) were combined into one class period, and that wasn't very satisfactory.

100

163

839

9.1%

14.7% 75.9%

88. The time necessary for language study was hurting my grades in other subjects.

144

29 🗄

689

12.8%

26.0%

. 61.13

89. A guidance counselor advised me to drop.

64

122

938

5.7%

10.8%

83.3%

90. There was too much difference in instruction by different teachers.

106

227

789

9.4%

20.2%

70.2%

91. The next year of the language wasn't offered in my school.

110

112

891

9.9%

10.0%

79.8%

92. It was easy to make good grades without learning anything.

164

262

607

14.8%

23.6%

61.4%

93. I just didn't feel any more language was worthwhile.

282

330

25.3%

29.6%

501 44.9%

94. We weren't learning to understand the spoken language.

279 -25 09

347 31.2% 485 43.6% 95. I didn't have enough time to study the language as much as ! should.

 248
 424
 430

 22.4%
 38.4%
 38.9%

96. My language teacher advised me to drop.

65 125 905 5.9% 11.4% 82.5%

97. I preferred to study another subject instead of a larguage.

356 342 418 31.9% 30.6% 37.4%

98. I lost interest in studying the language.

410 357 340 36.9% 32.1% 30.6%

99. I didn't like working in the lab.

86 173 759 8.4% 17.0% 74.5%

100. The teacher did most of the talking.

261 308 527 23.8% 28.1% 48.0%

101. I was lazy and didn't study enough.

235 375 \ 500 21.1% 33.7% 45.0%

102. I didn't like the textbook.

203 338 566 18.3% 30.5% 51.1%

103. There was too much emphasis on reading and writing.

150 292 655 13.7% 26.6% 59.7%

104. I didn't have good teachers.

251 257 598 22.9% 23.4% 53.6% 105. The teacher didn't like the class.

161 215 731 14.5% 19.4% 66.0%

106. I only intended to take it for this long.

185 277 635 16.8% 25.2% 57.8%

107. The teacher really didn't do much teaching.

.194 233 661 -17.8% 21.4% 60.6%

108. All we did was watc' television.

69 114 906 6.3% 10.5% 83.2%

109. Another teacher advised me to drop.

51 107 946 4.6% 9.7% 86.8%

110. I didn't want to study a ranguage but had to and stopped as soon as I could.

> 95 | 178 - 832 8.6% | 16.1% | 75.3%

lll. The teacher did not seem to know the language well.

83 174 828 7.6% 16.0% 76.3%

II'2. The teacher's grading system was too severe.

138 286 669 12.6% 26.1% 61.1%

113. The teacher and I didn't get along.

187 243 670 17.0% 21.1% 60.8%

114. The language was too easy and didn't hallenge me.

57 72 855 5.3%——5.8%——76.8% 115. There was too much emphasis on speaking the language.

94 243 8.8% 22.6%

737 ი8.ć%

116. I wasn't permitted to study the language I wanted to study.

87 8.1%

834

117. I was tired of the same teacher.

186

63.4%

17.0% 19.5%

I had to take another subject which conflicted with the lang age

166

course. -

118.

679

15.2%

22.4%

119. My parents advised me to drop.

172

6.7%

16.0% 。

120. The repetition was boring.

227

346

510 -

20.9%

31.9%

47.0%

Laidn't like to study literature.

134

254

12.3%

23.4%

64.45

122. I had a poor background for the next lavel.

17:8%

57.4%

The teacher didn't ony sufficient attention to problems of the indivisual.

I preferred to take doubter subject which conflicted will latigangs goverss.

125. We didn't have much opportunity to participate in class.

 130
 242
 715

 12.0%
 22.2%
 65.8%

126. The quality of instruction was poor.

216 247 599 20.3% 23.2% 56.4%

127. There was too much translation.

 145
 244
 654

 13.9%
 23.4%
 62.6%

128. We weren't learning to speak the language.

226 301 523 21.6% 28.7% 49.8%

129. I wasn't able to become fluent, which was my reason for studying the language.

239 347 469 22.6% 32.8% 44.6%

130. All we did was memorize dialogs.

278 298 484 26.2% 28.1% 45.5%

131. I moved to high school from junior high school and the high school teacher taught with different jexts, methods, etc.

82 (41 800 8.6% (3.8% 78.4%

the changes schools and the next course that I needed of the imagings was not available in the new school.

58 100 863 5.2% 9.8% 4 84.4%

APPENDIX E

March 9, 1971

TO: District Superintendents

FROM: Elliot C. Howe, Specialist Foreign Language Education

SUBJECT: District Permission to Conduct Research on Student Attitude on Foreign Language Instruction

In some of the school districts of Utah foreign language enroll-ments are decreasing, in other districts they remain about the same, and in a few they are increasing.

The Division of General Education has contracted with Mr. Lynn Wood, teacher of German at South High School and graduate student of Brigham Young University, to make a study of the opinions and attitudes of secondary students in regard to foreign languages. It is planned that the study sample be taken from every third senior high school and every fourth Junior high school in the state. He will get reactions from junior and senior high school students who are presently studying a foreign language and from those who have never studied or who have discontinued studying a foreign language.

Problem to be considered: Since foreign language enrollments are decreasing in some schools of the state and increasing in other schools, what influence do student opinions, attitudes, and expectations have on foreign language encollments?

- Why do students study a foreign language, e.g., expectations, motives?
- 2. What is the foreign language student's attitude toward the common in regard to (a) class activities, (b) teaching methods, and an extracurricular activities?
- 3. How long does a student think he should study a foreign language?! Why do students discontinue foreign language study? Why do they never study a foreign language even though the opportunity is available?
- 4. How does the student feel about studying a foreign language as compared to other studies?
- S: What differences are there in attitude on these subjects when compening junion high school to senior high school students?

Ale and the second seco

District Superintendents Page 2 March 9, 1971

Possible ways in which information can be used by school districts:

- Organization of curricular offerings as to grade placement and number of years offered.
- Suggest changes in teaching emphasis—emphasize more on speaking skills or emphasize greater understanding of grammatical concepts.
- 3. Counseling given to students; e.g., when you enroll in a foreign language you should expect to remain for X number of years.
- 4. Knowledge as to relative importance of foreign language in eyes of students.
- 5. Do attitudinal differences between junior and senior high school students on foreign languages demand special adjustments in curricular offerings or teaching methods?

Your permitsion is respectfully requested to allow Mr. Lynn Wood or his representative to visit the semior high schools and the junior high a bools of your district which are randomly selected from a state wist. If you have reasons why you do not want a specific school or schools to be invite, to purisipate in the study, will you please let me know at your deliest convenience. In the interest of time I would him to suggest that upleas you notify his office of our bjections by March 19, 1971, Mr. Wood will be steened to visit your secondar.

Think yould'd your before on on.

APPENDIX F

The following list is a rank order of the questions from the least important reason for discontinuing foreign language study to the most important reason. The percentage of students who answered "did not contribute" for each question is given.

| Question | Percent "did not co | Answering ntribute" |
|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 109. Another teacher advised me to drop. | | 86.8 |
| 132. I changed schools and the next course that I the language was not available in the new sc | needed of | 84.4 |
| 74. I changed schools, and the language I-had st taught in the new school. | udled wasn't | |
| 89. A guidance counselor advised me to drop. | • | 83.3 |
| 108. All we did was watch television. | | 83.2 |
| 96. My language teacher advised me to drop. | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | 82.5 |
| 91. The next year of the language wasn't offered school. | in my | 79.8 |
| 114. The language was too easy and didn't challen | ge me. | 78.8 |
| 131. I moved to high school from junior high school feacher faught with different te etc. | xts, methods, | 76.1 |
| ol. I wanted to switch to another language which would like better. | I thought ! | 77.6 |
| 116. I wasn't permitted to study the language I wasn't study. | anted to | 77.4 |
| 119. My parents advised me to drop. | : | 77.0 |
| III. The teacher did not seem to know the largue | · 報費[]。 | 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 |
| 57. Student: from more than one course lifer exe Spanish III and IV) were complined into one c and that wasn't very satisfactory. | mple, lass period | 75.Q |
| FIG. 1 dign t want to rivey a language but hee to as soon as I could. | and stopped. | 罗斯 金 |
| 99. I plan't like working in the lab. | | 74.5 |
| eu. Pres all tre language i needed for college | entranti i i i | |

Question

| <u> </u> | , | |
|----------|--|-------------|
| 90. | There was too much difference in instruction by different teachers. | 70.2 |
| 115. | There was too much emphasis on speaking the language. | 60.0 |
| 72. | l would have preferred another language not offered in my school. | 66.3 |
| 105. | The teacher didn't like the class. | 66.0 |
| 125. | We didn't have much opportunity to participate in class. | ŏ5.3 |
| 121. | l didn't like to study literature. | 64.4 |
| 77. | I didn't need the credit. | 63.7 |
| 117. | I was tired of the same teacher. | 63.4 |
| 127. | There was too much translation. | 62.6 |
| 78. | There was not enough opportunity for individual practice in the lab. | 62.0 |
| 11-8. | I had to take another subject which conflicted with the language course. | 62.0 |
| 92. | It was easy-to make good grades without learning anything. | 61.4 |
| 88. | The time necessary for language study was hurting my grades in other subjects. | 61.1 |
| 112. | The teacher's grading system was too severe. | 61.1 |
| 85. | The teacher could not maintain discipline. | 61.0 |
| 113. | The teacher and I didn't get along. | 60.8 |
| 107. | The teacher really didn't do much teaching. | 60.6 |
| 82. | The language program was not intensive enough. | 60.5 |
| 103. | There was too much emphasis on reading and writing. | 59.7 |
| 79. | There wasn't enough emphasis on reading and writing. | 58.3 |
| 106. | I only intended to take it for this long. | 57.8 |
| 122. | I had a poor background for the next level. | 57.4 |

| | • | MAI |
|------------------|--|------------------------|
| <u>Quast</u> | | Abbacting |
| 65. | The language was too hard for me. | 100.0 |
| 75. | The reacher was too dependent on the fext. | 50.7 |
| 1.2t/. | The quality of instruction was poor. | Elliert |
| 54. | There was too much emphasis on grammar. | 50.2 |
| 124: | I preferred to take another subject which conflicted with the language course. | April (Co. |
| 101. | í dianth have good teachers. | (2.5 ₃ , 5) |
| 70. | There wasn't enough emphasis on vocabulary and grammar. | ₽#. <u>1</u> |
| 102. | I dian't like the toxtbook. | , 51.1 |
| 5 69. | There wasn't enough emphasis on the people and their civilization. | 50.3 |
| 128. | We weren't learning to speak the language. | 49.8 |
| 73. | The language became more difficult, and I couldn't keep up any longer. | 48.5 |
| 125. | The teacher dign't pay sufficient attention to problems of individuals. | 48.3 |
| 100. | The teacher did most of the talking. | 48.0 |
| 71. | I dian't like the teacher. | 47.0 |
| 120. | The repetition was boring. | 47.0 |
| 66. - | There was too much memorizing. | 10.0 |
| 130. | All we did was memorize dialogs. | 45.5 |
| 101. | I was lazy and dian't study enough. | 45.0 |
| 93. | l just didn't feel any more language was worthwhile. | 44.9 |
| 129 | I wasn't abte to become fluent, which was my reason for studying the language. | 44.6 |

43.6

We tried to cover too much too fast.

We weren't learning to understand the spoken language.

76.

94.

Question

| 95. | I didn't have enough time to study the language as much as I should. | Sale a M |
|-----------------|--|----------|
| w. | The language as it was taught was not relevant and worthwhile. | 50. S |
| 97. | I proferred to study another subject instead of a larguage. | 37.4 |
| O _{CS} | I lost interest in studying the Language | 50) + |

APPENDIZ O

School Districts in Utah That Participated in the Study

Alpine Box Elder Davis Emery Granite Logan

Millard

Morgan Provo

Salf Lake city

Toople Uintah Mashington Wayne Weller

School Districts in Utah Where Foreign Languages' Are Not Taught

Daggett Garfield Park City Frute

Grand

North Sampete

South Summit

Tintic

School Districts in Utah Not Wanting to Participate in the Study

Cache · Lron Jordan

Murray Oaden San Juan

School Districts in Utah Not Used in the Study

Beaver

North Summit

Carbon

Rich Sevier

Duchesne

South Sampete

Juab

Kane Nebo

Wasatch



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